IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Once amended)   A method for monitoring a control system comprising a plurality of control units suitable for controlling an optical measurement device or observation device, wherein a control station communicates with the control units for purposes of detecting status data and the control station generates pictures of total statuses of the control system based on this status data, said method comprising the steps of:

incorporating at least one microprocessor unit with master capability to communicate between the control station and the control units; and

detecting status data using said at least one microprocessor unit with master capability to communicate with at least one of the control units for purposes of detecting status data of the at least one control unit; and

communicating with the control station for purposes of conveying the detected status data to the control unit.

3.   (Once amended) The method for monitoring a control system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein detecting the status data is accomplished by transferring a master capability partially and/or within time limits from the control station to at least one of the plurality control units to create a control unit with master capability,

wherein the control unit with master capability communicates with at least one of the other control units of the plurality of control units to detect status data of at least one of the other control units; and

communicates with the control station for purposes of conveying detected status data to the control station.

4.   (Once Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one control units with master capability and the plurality of control units without master capability are interconnected via a bus,

and the control station communicates with the rest of the control units via a two-path connection to one of the at least one control units with master capability, wherein a capability of detecting status data is assigned to the at least one control units with master capability.

5.   (Once Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the transferring a master capability for detecting status data of at least one of the other control units is carried out using existing communications paths by downloading corresponding executable programs from the control station to the at least one of the plurality control units to create a control unit with master capability.

6.   (Once amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein a step of assigning and/or taking away a capability of detecting the status data using existing communications paths is carried out by activating or deactivating executable programs which are stored in the [respective] control unit or which are transmitted by downloading.

7.   (Once amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detection of status data by the microprocessor unit with master capability or by the control unit is brought about when changes in status occur in the at least one of the plurality control units.

10.   (Once amended) A control system suitable for controlling an optical measurement device or observation device with parts to be controlled comprising:

a plurality of control units for controlling the parts;

a control station which, when required, generates a map of the overall status of the control system based on status data of the plurality of control units; and

at least one of the plurality of control units having a master capability of detecting and/or automatically assessing status data of other control units of the plurality of

control units and transmitting the detected status data and a determined assessment to the control station.